

I Claim:

1. A flotation device for manual applicator brushes in combination with a manual applicator brush, the combination comprising:

5 a manual applicator brush having a handle, a shoulder portion adjacent the handle and a plurality of bristles adjacent the shoulder portion; and

a foam body sized for flotation upon liquid within a portable container having an aperture through the foam body sized and shaped for frictional engagement with the handle of the manual applicator brush positioned within the foam body to maintain substantial submersion of the bristles within the liquid, the handle of the manual applicator brush engaged with the aperture and the shoulder portion of the manual applicator brush being seated against a floating side of the foam body such that the manual applicator brush is oriented in a substantially upright position.

15 2. The combination of claim 1 wherein the foam body is made of material resilient to chemical solvent degradation.

3. The combination of claim 2 wherein the aperture through the foam body has a diameter of from about 9/16 inches to about 11/16 inches.

20 4. The combination of claim 3 wherein the foam body has a thickness of from about 1 inch to about 3 inches.

5. The combination of claim 4 wherein the foam body has a width of from about 3 inches to about 5 inches.

6. A flotation device for suspending bristles of a first manual applicator brush in liquid having a foam body made of material resilient to chemical solvent degradation for flotation upon the liquid with a first aperture through the foam body sized and shaped for frictionally engaging a handle portion of the first manual applicator brush during use, the first aperture positioned within the foam body to maintain substantial submersion of the bristles of the first manual applicator brush within the liquid.

10

7. The flotation device of claim 6 further comprising a second aperture through the foam body having a diameter of a size differing from that of the first aperture, the second aperture frictionally engaging a handle portion of a second manual applicator brush during use, the second aperture positioned within the foam body to maintain substantial submersion of bristles of the second manual applicator brush with and without the presence of the first manual applicator brush during use.

15

8. The flotation device of claim 7 further comprising a third aperture through the foam body having a diameter of a size differing from that of the first aperture and second aperture, the third aperture frictionally engaging a handle portion of a third manual applicator brush during use, the third aperture positioned within the foam body to maintain substantial submersion of bristles of the third manual applicator brush with and without the presence of the first manual applicator brush and the second applicator brush during use.

20

9. The flotation device of claim 7 wherein the foam body has a thickness of from about 1 inch to about 3 inches.

10. The flotation device of claim 9 wherein the foam body has a width of from about 3 inches to about 5 inches.

11. A flotation device for suspending bristles of a manual applicator brush in liquid, the device comprising:

a foam body made of material resilient to chemical solvent degradation for flotation upon liquid, the foam body having a substantially flat top side, a substantially flat bottom side and at least one side wall perpendicular to the bottom side; and

a centrally located aperture through the foam body sized and shaped for frictionally engaging a handle portion of a manual applicator brush during use.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein the aperture through the foam body has a diameter of from about 9/16 inches to about 1 1/16 inches.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein the foam body has a thickness of from about 1 inch to about 3 inches.

14. The device of claim 13 wherein the foam body has a width of from about 3 inches to about 5 inches.

15. A method of cleaning manual applicator brushes, the method comprising:

filling an open mouthed container with cleansing fluid to a predetermined depth;  
engaging a manual applicator brush with a flotation device made of material  
resilient to chemical solvent degradation having an aperture through the foam body sized  
and shaped for frictional engagement with a handle portion of the manual applicator  
5 brush;

floating the manual applicator brush engaged with the flotation device upon the  
cleansing fluid allowing bristles of the manual applicator brush to be suspended within  
the cleansing fluid;

allowing the cleansing fluid to cleanse the bristles of the manual applicator brush;  
10 removing the manual applicator brush engaged with the flotation device from the  
container; and

disengaging the manual applicator brush from the flotation device.

16. The method of claim 15 further comprising agitating the container while the cleansing  
15 fluid is cleansing the bristles of the manual applicator brush.

17. The method of claim 15 further comprising allowing the bristles of the manual applicator  
brush to substantially dry.